

Ashley National Forest VISITOR GUIDE

Includes the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area



Big Fish, Ancient Rocks



Flaming Gorge



High Uintas Wilderness (© V. Turchenko)

The natural forces that formed the Uinta Mountains are evident in the panorama of geologic history found along waterways, roads, and trails of the Ashley National Forest. The Uinta Mountains, punctuated by the red rocks of Flaming Gorge on the east, offer access to waterways, vast tracts of backcountry, and rugged wilderness.

The forest provides healthy habitat for deer, elk, mountain goats, bighorn sheep, and trophy-sized trout. Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area, the Green River, High Uintas Wilderness, and Sheep Creek National Geological Area are just some of the popular attractions.

Fast Forest Facts

Elevation Range: 6,000'-13,528'

Unique Feature: The Uinta Mountains are one of the few major ranges in the contiguous United States with an east-west orientation

Annual Precipitation: 15-60" in the mountains; 3-8" in the Uinta Basin

Lakes in the Uinta Mountains: Over 800

Acres: 1,382,347

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*Fish the lakes and rivers;
explore the deep canyons
and high peaks; and
marvel at the ancient
geology of the Ashley
National Forest!*



Get to Know Us

History

For at least 8,000 years, native people have hunted animals, gathered plants for food and fiber, and used stone tools, and other resources to make a living. This was the lifestyle of the Ute Indians when European explorers and settlers arrived.

In 1825, William Ashley (after whom the forest is named) explored the area in buffalo hide boats. However, the most famous explorer was John Wesley Powell who led two expeditions down the Green River in wooden boats. On May 26, 1869, Powell named a particularly spectacular red rock cliff face "Flaming Gorge."

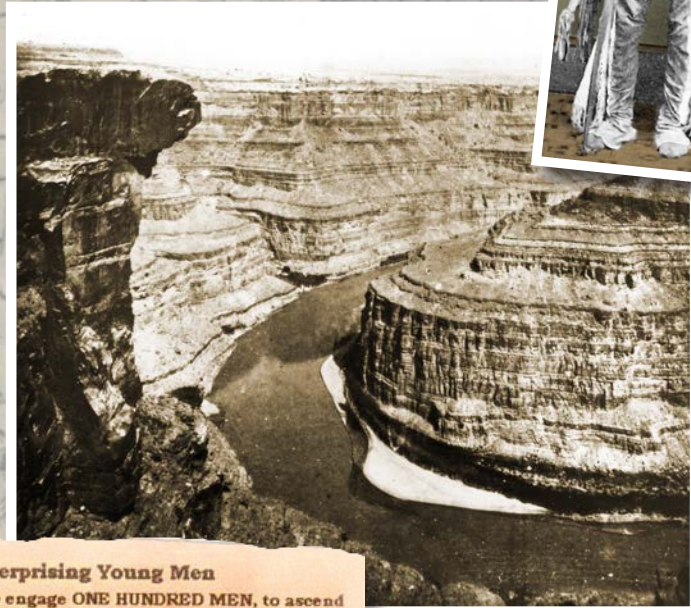


The first Anglo settlement on the Uinta Basin took place in 1872 by Captain Pardon Dodds. He was followed by other cattlemen who had the surrounding ranges fully stocked within the next two years.

Running the Rapids
drawing by J.W. Powell,
1875

In 1897, President Grover Cleveland set aside the Uinta Forest Reserve, which was expanded upon in 1908 by President Theodore Roosevelt. The federal government was not always popular in the area. The first Forest Supervisor, William Anderson, worked hard to develop good relationships with cattlemen and loggers, but there were still town meetings when he made sure his revolver was handy.

The Uinta Mountains were named for early relatives of the Ute Tribe. Sapphix and son, Ute, 1869 photo courtesy of First People



Enterprising Young Men

The subscriber wishes to engage ONE HUNDRED MEN, to ascend the river Missouri to its source, there to be employed for one, two, or three years. For particulars enquire of Major Andrew Henry, near the Lead Mines, in the County of Washington, (who will ascend with, and command party) or to the subscriber at St. Louis.

Wm. H. Ashley

A photo taken by the
Powell Survey, 1871
(US Geological Survey photo)

Today, the forest and range lands of the Ashley National Forest are protected and managed for all Americans, and for multiple benefits. The vast Uinta Mountains watershed provides vital water supplies for power, industry, farm, and city use in Utah, Nevada, Wyoming, and California. Sheep, cattle, and horses graze under permit on over a half million acres of the forest each season. Timber is managed to ensure a sustainable supply and a quality environment. Over one million visitors come to the forest each year to boat, fish, camp, hike, backpack, ride horses, cross-country ski, and snowmobile.

Historical Places

Swett Ranch

Sitting on the benches of the Uinta Mountains near Red Canyon, Swett Ranch is a capsule of frontier life projected into modern times. Oscar Swett homesteaded the family's original claim in 1909 accumulating additional acreage over the next 58 years. Today, Swett Ranch is on the National Register of Historic Places. Tours of the ranch are offered in the summer.



For over a decade, the Forest Service has been restoring Swett Ranch with the help of Passport in Time (PIT) volunteers. To volunteer for

this or other PIT projects, visit
www.passportintime.com.



Ute Mountain Lookout

The Mountain Lookout was the first and is the last standing fire tower built in Utah. With a panoramic view of the Ashley National Forest and surrounding area, an observer has a 360-degree view of the northeastern slope of the Uinta Mountain Range. Still used as a fire lookout tower today, it is a monument to Forest Service cultural heritage—the early years of fire prevention and detection. Visit the tower in the summer and see what life is like for fire lookouts. Enjoy views of the High Uintas, Flaming Gorge, the historic Carter Military Highway and on a clear day, both Wyoming and Colorado.

High Uintas Wilderness



Four Chains Lake

Within the 456,705 acres of the High Uintas Wilderness, cold, clear rivers plunge into deep canyons that form the headwaters of Utah's major rivers. Park-like meadows, lush wetlands, and alpine lakes edged by dense conifer forests are common. Above the treeline, rock outcrops or rounded "bollies," sparsely covered with tundra plant communities, rise to meet the skyline. Elk, mule deer, moose, mountain goat, black bear, bighorn sheep, ptarmigan, river otter, pine marten, and cougar frequent the Wilderness.

The High Uintas Wilderness was designated by Congress in 1984 as a place where its primeval character is protected. It is managed to preserve its "wildness" while providing visitors with opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation.



River otter (© Stenic56)

Wilderness Trail Highlights

Highline Trail is over 90 miles long, but can be enjoyed in shorter segments via numerous connector trails. Chepeta Trailhead, located off Forest Road 110, provides access about 7 miles east of the High Uintas Wilderness. To the west, the trail ends at Mirror Lake on the Unita-Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

Hades/Rocky Sea Pass Trail begins at Grandview Trailhead and ends at the boundary with the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest, 10.5 miles later. An abundance of lakes makes this a very popular trail.

Uinta Canyon Trail ends at the Highline Trail approximately 14 miles from the trailhead. This trail parallels the Uinta River Gorge for 11 miles after which it connects to the Highline Trail, an access route to King's Peak. Other destinations include Atwood Basin and Painter Basin.

Swift Creek Trail travels for 7.8 miles before ending at the junction with the Jackson Park Trail. Other destinations include Upper Yellowstone and Garfield Basin which is a popular access route to King's Peak.

Center Park Trail enters Garfield Basin and ends at Tungsten Pass on the Highline Trail, approximately 17 miles. It is known for its panoramic view of the entire Yellowstone Basin at Swasey's Hole.

Highlights

- * King's Peak, the tallest in Utah at 13,820'
- * Numerous mountain lakes with outstanding fishing
- * 6 major trailheads in the Ashley National Forest
- * 545 miles of trail

Know Before You Go

People visit wilderness in search of a special experience defined by its wild character. Expect to encounter the challenges and risks of changing weather, rugged terrain, and other natural hazards. Travel with a good map and know how to use it. Use extreme caution when crossing rivers and snowfields—this is where most wilderness accidents occur. Water sources in the High Uintas Wilderness are plentiful but unsafe to drink without treatment, due to giardia, cryptosporidium, and other waterborne microbes.

Remember YOU are responsible for your safety.

To protect natural resources and the wilderness experience, the following are prohibited within the High Uintas Wilderness:

- Use of any motorized or mechanized forms of machinery.
- Groups exceeding 14 persons and 15 head of stock. Groups exceeding this size must divide into separate parties and remain at least one mile apart.
- Camping within 200 feet of any occupied campsite, designated trail, or water source.
- Failing to properly dispose of all garbage (pack it out) and leaving human waste in an exposed or unsanitary manner.
- Building a campfire or using a wood stove within 1/4 mile of a location closed to these activities (see trailhead bulletin board).
- Restraining a saddle or pack animal for longer than one hour within 200 feet of a water source or tying an animal directly to a tree for more than one hour. Animals must be moved sooner if damage to the tree, soil, or vegetation is occurring.
- Shortcutting a switchback in a trail.
- Damaging any natural feature. This includes, but is not limited to: falling or damaging trees, trenching, and vandalism.
- Constructing any structure or improvement. This includes, but is not limited to: hitchrails, furniture, shelters, and rafts.



High Uintas Wilderness

Visit the High Uintas Wilderness website page for maps and a list of authorized outfitters and guides who can help you with your adventure: www.fs.fed.us/r4/ashley/recreation

Scenic Byways and Backways

Flaming Gorge-Uintas National Scenic Byway



Are you ready for adventure? A road trip along the Flaming Gorge-Uintas National Scenic Byway may be just the ticket.

The byway meanders over the eastern flank of the Uinta Mountains—one of the few east-west ranges in the country—and through the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area. The majestic peaks of the Uinta Mountains provide the backdrop.

Aptly named, the theme for the byway is “Wildlife through the Ages” since the route travels through one of the richest areas for wildlife and fossils in the west. During your drive you will not only experience abundant wildlife, but also deep multi-colored canyons, unique geologic features, breathtaking scenic vistas, and broad forest landscapes. Many wayside exhibits and trails are available to enhance your visit. The route also crosses Flaming Gorge Dam, towering 502 feet above the waters of the Green River below.

Length: 82.0 miles/132.0 km
Time to Allow: 3.5 hours to drive (including backtracking on Highway 44), or a day to enjoy.



Wild horses grazing on 191 North near Rock Springs, WY.



Cart Creek Bridge



Flaming Gorge Reservoir



Sheep Creek Bay Overlook

Red Cloud Loop Scenic Backway

The Red Cloud Loop makes a circle starting on US 191, north of Vernal Utah. The route crosses through broad meadows, aspen groves, and through a sea of lodgepole pine forests. You'll also catch glimpses of the High Uintas Wilderness and broad vistas across the Uinta Mountains.

Length: 45 miles/72 km
Time to Allow: 2.5 hours
Note: The road surface varies between paved and gravel, and some portions are closed in winter months.



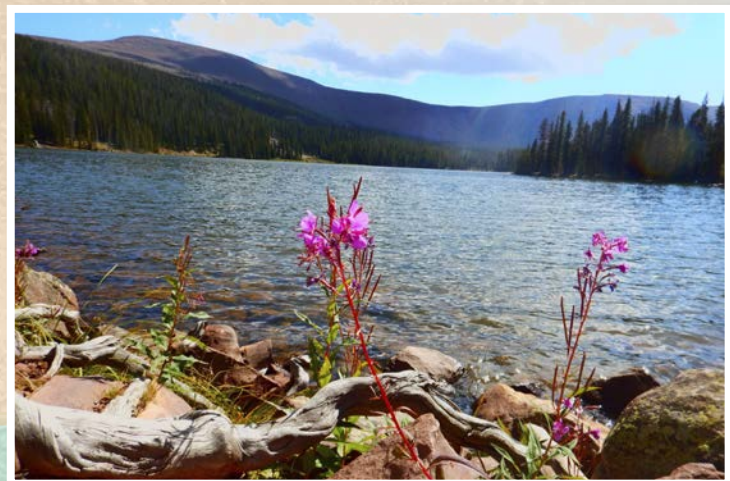
On the Dry Fork end of the route, northwest of Vernal, Fremont Indian rock art is visible on the McConkie Ranch. The petroglyphs are on private land. Signs at the parking area will direct you to the appropriate viewing location.

Sheep Creek/Spirit Lake Scenic Backway

The Sheep Creek part of this backway circles off of Utah State Highway 44 through the varied and dramatic geologic formations of the Sheep Creek National Geologic Area. This relatively small area is occupied by an impressive variety of birds and other wildlife. Unique formations, wildlife, and vegetative variety give the area some of the most impressive close-up scenery on the Ashley National Forest.

Length: 48 miles/76.8 km
Time to Allow: 45 minutes to 4 hours
Note: The road surface varies between paved and gravel, and is closed in the winter.

Spirit Lake Scenic Backway road is a 17-mile spur off of the Sheep Creek Loop, and winds through meadows and forests to the alpine area around Spirit Lake, just below the High Uintas Wilderness.



Spirit Lake

Indian Canyon Scenic Byway

This Byway begins near Duchesne on US Highway 191 (a part of Dinosaur Diamond Scenic Byway) and crosses the colorful terrain between the Uinta Basin and San Rafael Swell near Price. Varied landscapes of steep and colorful rock formations provide a visual treat. Stretching southwest on US Highway 191 from Duchesne, the byway follows Indian Creek through desert terrain before climbing to the summit at 9,100 feet. On the way, you pass through pinyon and juniper to aspen and Douglas fir. Descending the south flank, you pass open vistas and the beginning of the Roan and Book Cliff formations. The byway ends in the historic mining town of Helper.

Length: 47 miles/75.2 km
Time to Allow: 1 hour



Reservation Ridge Scenic Backway

Reservation Ridge Scenic Backway starts on Highway 6, 31 miles north of Price at Soldier Summit. It then loops south to join US 191 north of Price.

This backway begins with dramatic views of Strawberry Reservoir to the north. The route roughly parallels the Right Fork of the White River at first, as it climbs up to 8,900 feet. It then curves south through aspen and pine stands perched on top of the plateau, and openings provide more views of rugged cliffs and steep canyons.

Length: 45 miles/72 km
Time to Allow: 2 hours travel time
Note: The road is a single lane dirt road and four-wheel drive is recommended. Use caution when wet.



Indian Canyon view from the byway



Rock Creek Canyon

Rock Creek Canyon is one of several scenic canyons along the south face of the Uinta Mountains. There is a wide variety of recreation activities available here, including river fishing, group and single-site campgrounds, and trails to the High Uintas Wilderness. The paved road to Upper Stillwater Dam—considered the largest roller compacted concrete dam in the world—follows Rock Creek. Don't miss the visitor center below the Upper Stillwater Dam.



Winter Recreation

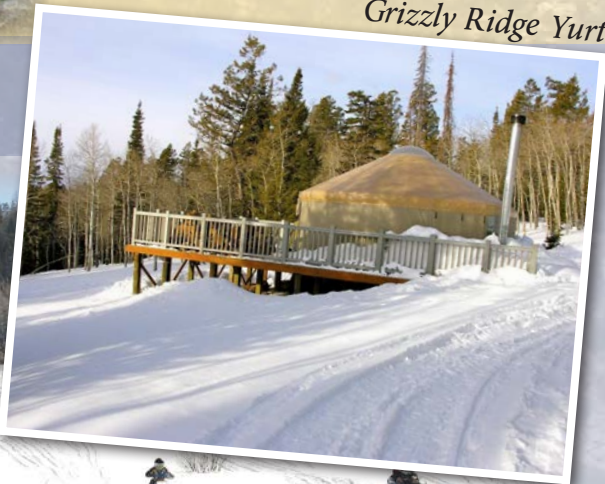
Groomed and ungroomed snowmobile trails, and seemingly endless backcountry provide opportunities to winter recreation enthusiasts. Several cross-country ski trails are available

from Highway 191 and from Highway 44 along the southern and western rim of the Flaming Gorge Reservoir.

If ice fishing is your sport, the Flaming Gorge Reservoir is a favored and productive winter fishery. Anglers should check with local offices or businesses for ice conditions as warm weather and fluctuating water levels may cause hazardous ice.



Snowmobiler, Flaming Gorge Chamber photo



Grizzly Ridge Yurt

Yurts and cabins can be rented in winter (see page 11 for more information).

For more details on winter activities, visit <http://www.dinoland.com/userfiles/file/winterguide.pdf>.

Flaming Gorge

NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

As one of the most aptly named landscapes in the country, the vast scenery of Flaming Gorge may not fit into your camera.

The Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area (NRA) is centered along the 91-mile section of the Flaming Gorge Reservoir and a rugged section of the Green River. The mix of climate and topography provide year-round recreation. The southern part includes colorful, narrow canyons, and conifer forests; the northern part is surrounded by high sagebrush deserts and rock mesas. Campgrounds, lodges, marinas, boat launches, swimming beaches, fishing areas, and hiking/ski trails are available along the 360 miles of shoreline and tucked into mountain retreats. Close at hand are the quaint communities of Manila, Green River, and Dutch John, which have accommodations and other services.

© M. Morgan



© Flenson

Red Canyon

Perched high above the reservoir at the southern end of Flaming Gorge NRA lies the Red Canyon Recreation Complex. A destination unto itself for many visitors, the area includes the Red Canyon Overlook and Red

Canyon Visitor Center. These sites offer commanding views of the 700' wide and 1,400' deep Red Canyon that frames the Flaming Gorge Reservoir.

Campgrounds and trails are available in the area. Anglers will enjoy the trout-stocked West Green's Lake (fully accessible).

Red Canyon Visitor Center

- * Open seasonally throughout the spring, summer and fall, please call for schedule. (435) 889-3713.
- * Immerse yourself in exhibits sharing the story of the area's unique flora, fauna, inhabitants and geology
- * Free programs are given throughout the summer



Red Canyon Lodge offers lodging, a restaurant, and horseback rides. For more information, call (435) 889-3759, or visit www.redcanyonlodge.com (Under permit with the Ashley National Forest)

Green River

On the Green River, fly fishing from the shore or rafting through rugged canyons below the Flaming Gorge Dam on the Green River are treasured adventures for many visitors to the Flaming Gorge NRA. Two main launch areas, several backcountry campgrounds, a shoreline trail, and year-round fly fishing await you. Guided trips are available.



© Rock Springs Chamber

Sheep Creek National Geological Area

More than a billion years of geologic history are showcased within this nationally significant geological area. Here, ancient formations overlain by layers of younger rock were flexed upward with the rise of the Uinta Mountains about 70 to 40 million years ago. Nine formations that comprise about 8,000 feet of rock are exposed in bands that dip northeastward, with the oldest in the south and the younger to the north. Sheep Creek lies southwest of Manila.



Flaming Gorge Dam

Flaming Gorge Reservoir and Dam

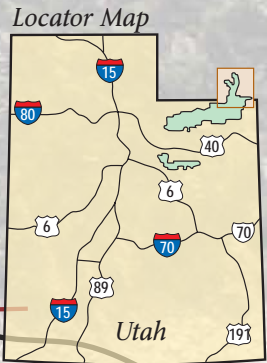
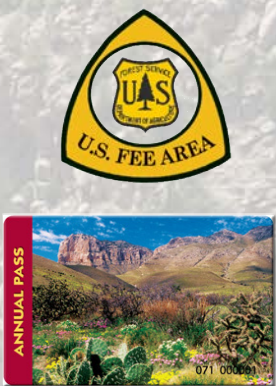
Flaming Gorge Reservoir was created in 1962 with the completion

of the Flaming Gorge Dam on the Green River by the Bureau of Reclamation. At 502 feet tall, the dam is part of the Colorado River Storage Project, and provides water storage, hydroelectricity, and recreation. There are three generating units in the Flaming Gorge Power Plant, which produce enough energy annually to serve about 50,000 households.

Flaming Gorge Dam Visitor Center

- * Open during the summer
- * Exhibits share the history and operations of the water facilities
- * Guided tours of the Dam are given throughout the summer. Call for a schedule (435-885-3135)

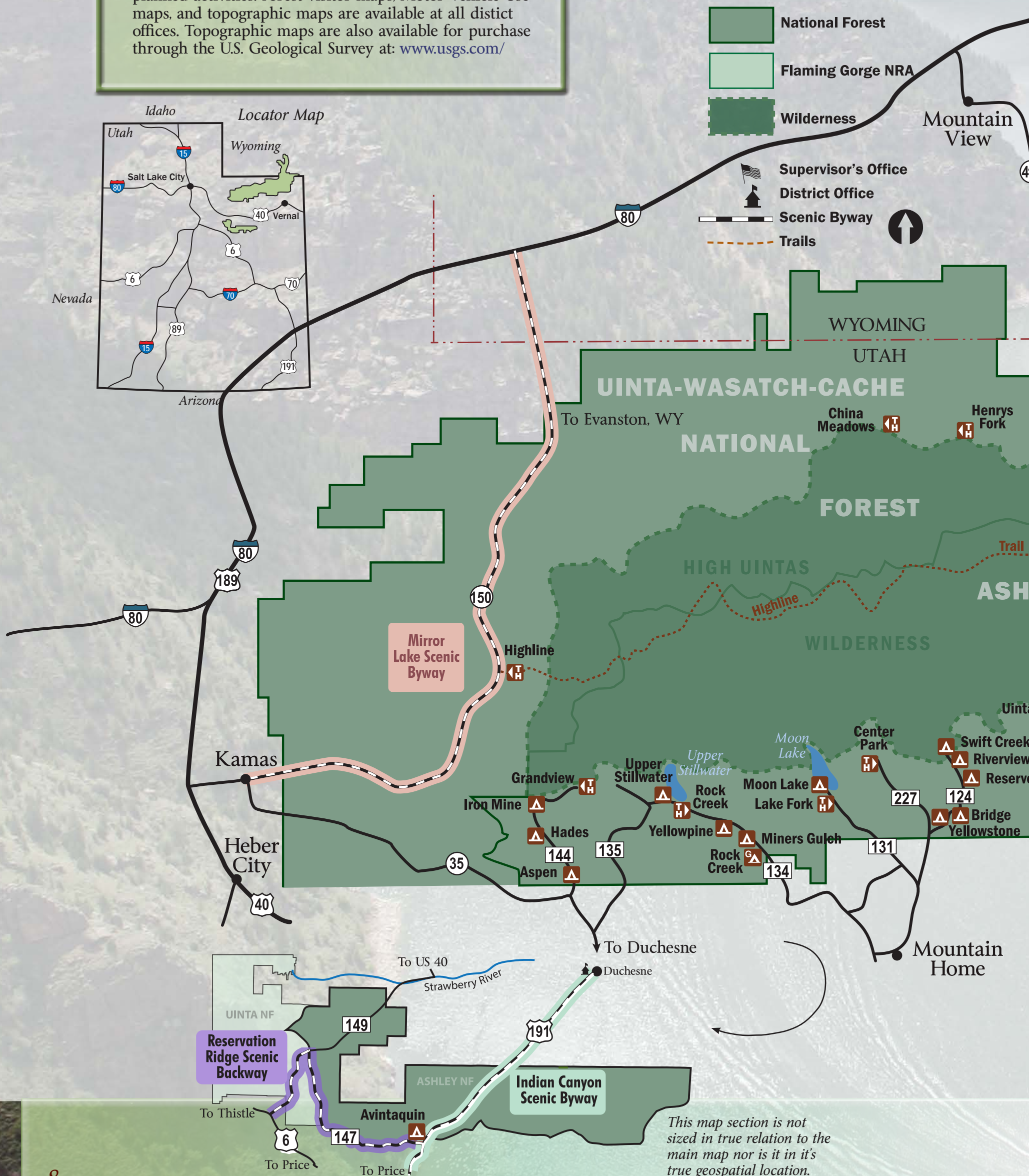
Flaming Gorge NRA passes are required at the following areas			
Area	Boat Launch	Picnic Site	Swim Beach
Antelope Flat	x		
Anvil Draw	x		
Buckboard Crossing	x		
Cedar Springs	x		
Firehole Canyon	x	x	x
Little Hole	x	x	
Spillway	x	x	
Brinegars	x		
Lucerne Valley	x		x
Mustang Ridge	x		x
Sunny Cove	x		x
Sheep Creek	x		
Passes may be purchased at local Forest Service offices, select local vendors, or on site at self-service pay stations (cash and check only when paying on site).			
Daily Pass: \$5 7-Day Pass: \$15 (days are consecutive) Annual Pass: \$35 per calendar year NOTE: Campground fees are separate from Day Use Fees.			
Interagency Passes including the Annual, Senior, Access, Military, 4th Grade, and Volunteer Passes may be used in lieu of a Daily or Annual Pass.			

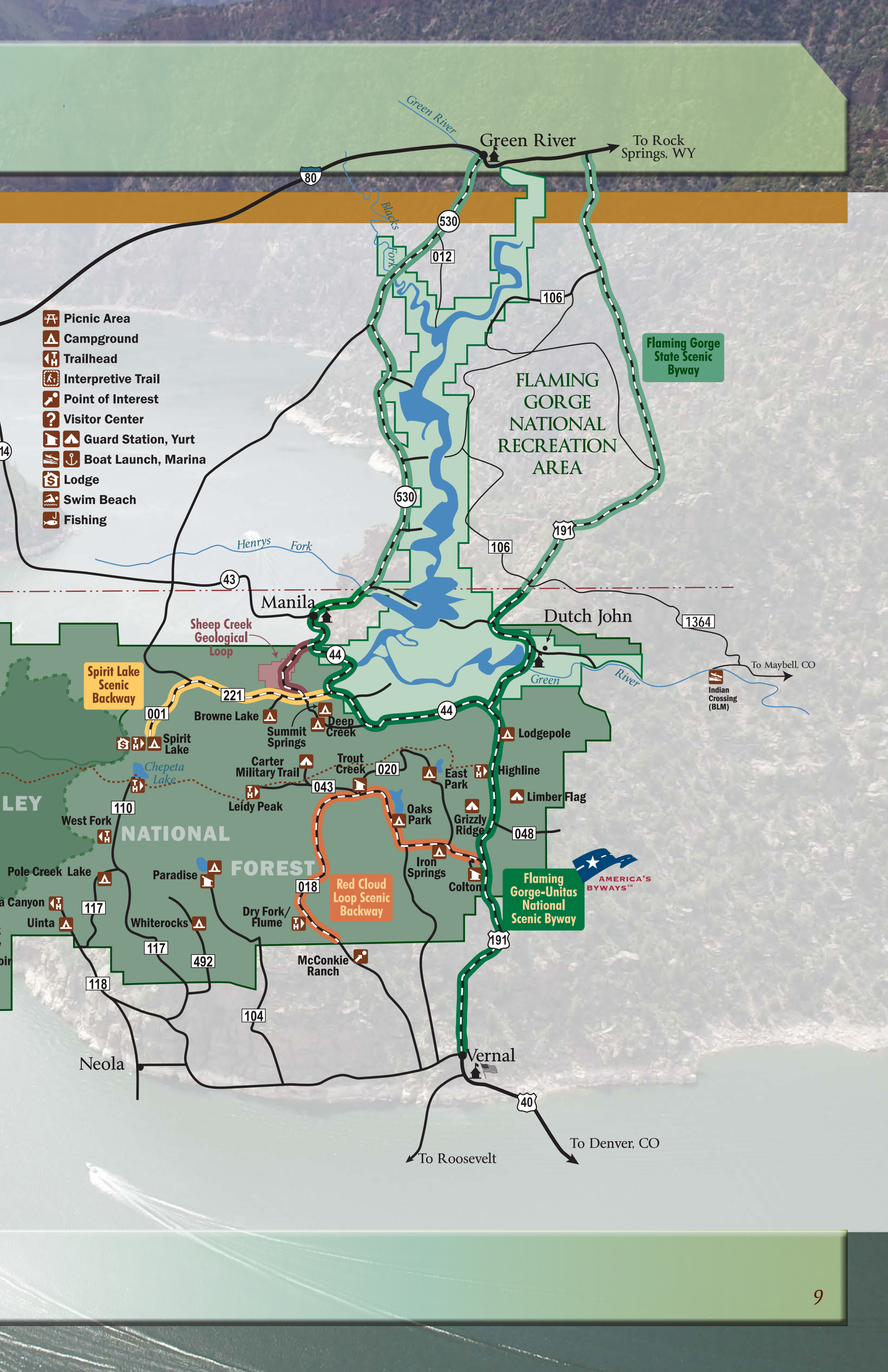


Ashley National Forest

Before venturing on to the Ashley National Forest, please pick up a map with the level of detail appropriate for your planned activities. Forest visitor maps, Motor Vehicle Use maps, and topographic maps are available at all district offices. Topographic maps are also available for purchase through the U.S. Geological Survey at: www.usgs.com/

-  National Forest
-  Flaming Gorge NRA
-  Wilderness
-  Supervisor's Office
-  District Office
-  Scenic Byway
-  Trails














































































































- Picnic Area
- Campground
- Trailhead
- Interpretive Trail
- Point of Interest
- Visitor Center
- Guard Station, Yurt
- Boat Launch, Marina
- Lodge
- Swim Beach
- Fishing



Campgrounds

Camping at Hideout Boat-In Campground.



CAMPGROUND	MAX RV LENGTH	NUMBER OF UNITS	SEASON*	AMENITIES	RESERV-ABLE
FLAMING GORGE NRA					
Antelope Flat	35'/40'	46/4 group sites	May-Sept.	     	Yes
Browne Lake	45'	20/4 group sites	May-Sept.		Yes (for group sites)
Buckboard Crossing	45'	58	May-Sept.	       hookups	Yes
Carmel	25'	15	May-Sept.	 	No
Canyon Rim	65'	16	May-Sept.	  	Yes
Cedar Springs	62'	21	April-Sept.	    	Yes
Deep Creek	30'	17	May-Sept.		No
Deer Run	45'	19	April-Oct.	     	Yes
Dripping Springs	60'	22/4 group sites	Year-round	   (no water in winter)	Yes
Firefighters Memorial	60'	94	May-Sept.	   	Yes
Firehole	35'	32/4 group sites	May-Sept.	      	Yes
Green River Camps	boat-in	17	Year-round	  Boat-in, walk-in only	Yes
Greendale	65'	8	May-Sept.	  	Yes
Greens Lake	40'	20/1 group site	May-Sept.	   	Yes
Lodgepole	63'	35	May-Sept.	   	Yes
Lucerne Valley	35'/60'	135/4 group sites	May-Sept.	      hookups	Yes
Manns	15'	9	May-Sept.	  	No
Mustang Ridge	80'/40'	68/1 group site	May-Sept.	     	Yes
Red Canyon	40'	8	May-Sept.	  	Yes
Sheep Creek Bay	45'	5	May-Sept.	   	No
Spirit Lake	30'	24	June-Sept.		No
Skull Creek	40'	17	May-Sept.	  	Yes
Stateline Cove	45'	20	May-Sept.	  	No
Willows	40'	8	May-Sept.	 	No
FLAMING GORGE NRA BOAT-IN ONLY CAMPS					
Hideout	Boat-In	18	May-Sept.	  	Yes
Jarvies Canyon	Boat-In	8/1 group site	May-Sept.	 	Yes
Kingfisher Island	Boat-In	8	May-Sept.	 	No
FLAMING GORGE NRA GROUP CAMPGROUNDS					
Arch Dam	35'	3	May-Sept.	  	Yes
Dutch John Draw	35'	1	May-Sept.	  	Yes
Greendale East Group	35'	2	May-Sept.	  	Yes



*Check with local forest office for specific opening and closing dates.



Camping at Firehole.

Sweetwater County Travel
and Tourism photo



CAMPGROUND	MAX RV LENGTH	NUMBER OF UNITS	SEASON	AMENITIES	RESER VABLE
ADDITIONAL CAMPGROUNDS ON THE ASHLEY NATIONAL FOREST					
Aspen	40'	32	May-Sept.		Yes
Avintaquin	30'	17/1 group site	May-Sept.		Yes
Bridge	25'	5	May-Sept.		No
East Park	25'	20	June-Sept.		No
Hades	30'	14	May-Sept.		Yes
Iron Mine	30'	28	May-Sept.		Yes
Moon Lake	60'/25'	54/2 group sites	May-Sept		Yes
Oaks Park	20'	15	June-Sept.		No
Paradise	25'	15	June-Sept.		No
Pole Creek	25'	19	May-Sept.		No
Reservoir	25'	5	May-Sept.		No
Riverview	25'	19	May-Sept.		No
Swift Creek	25'	11	May-Sept		No
Uinta Canyon	22'	23	May-Sept		No
Upper Stillwater	25'/30'	18/1 group site	May-Sept		Yes
Whiterocks	25'	21	May-Sept		No
Yellowpine	30'	27/3 group sites	May-Sept		No
Yellowstone	25'/25'	14/1 group site	May-Sept		Yes (for group site)
GROUP CAMPGROUNDS					
Iron Springs	60'	2	May-Sept.		Yes
Miners Gulch	24'	5	May-Sept.		Yes
Rock Creek	30'	1	May-Sept.		Yes
Uinta River	35'	6	May-Oct.		Yes

CABIN AND YURT RENTALS

NAME	SEASON (pending conditions)	AMENITIES	NOTES
Carter Military Trail Yurt	June-Oct. (motorized access)	Near trails; propane; cook stove; wood stove; wood provided; no water	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reservations can be made up to 120 days in advance.• Cookstove, propane, and assorted pots/pans are provided. Bring your own bedding.• Pets are allowed outside only.• Garbage service is not provided.
Colton Guard Station	June-Oct. (motorized access) Dec.-March (snomobile and ski access)	Near trails; propane; cook stove; wood stove; wood provided	
Grizzly Ridge Yurt	June-Oct. (motorized access) Dec.-March (non-motorized access)	Propane; cook stove; wood stove; wood provided; no water	
Limber Flag Yurt	June-Oct. (motorized access) Dec.-March (non-motorized access)	Propane; cook stove; wood stove; wood provided; no water	
Paradise Guard Station	June-Oct. (motorized access) Dec.-March (non-motorized access)	Propane; cook stove; wood stove; wood provided; no water	
Summit Springs Guard Station	May-Sept	cook stove; electricity; refrigerator	
Trout Creek Guard Station	June-Oct. (motorized access) Dec.-March (non-motorized access)	Propane; cook stove; wood stove; wood provided	

Reservations can be made at [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) or by calling 1-877-444-6777. All campgrounds (excluding group campgrounds) also have sites available on a “first-come, first served” basis.

Activities

Fishing

Whether fly fishing in the Duchesne or Green River, or jigging on Flaming Gorge Reservoir, the Ashley National Forest is an angler's paradise.

Flaming Gorge Reservoir is a premier fishing destination and is nationally renowned for its trophy lake trout. Other species include kokanee salmon, rainbow trout, brown trout, small mouth bass, channel catfish, and burbot.

The Green River below Flaming Gorge Dam is considered one of the best tailwater fisheries in North America. Seven miles of river support an estimated population of 15,000 fish/mile (rainbow, brown, and cutthroat trout). Be sure to check the current Utah Fishing Proclamation prior to your trip for special regulations pertaining to the Green River.

Green River Fishing Access and Facilities

- * **Flaming Gorge Dam Spillway:** Located approximately one mile below the dam. Facilities include a boat ramp, restrooms, and a trailhead. Drinking water is available seasonally.
- * **Little Hole:** Located approximately 7 river miles below the dam. Facilities include boat ramps, fully accessible parking, fishing platforms, restrooms, picnic areas, and the Little Hole Trailhead. Drinking water is available seasonally.
- * **River Camping:** There are 17 float-in campsites located below Little Hole and some may be accessible on foot. Reservations are available for 6 of these sites; fees are charged for all. Non-reserved sites are first come-first served, but registration for campsites must be made the day of use at Little Hole on the camp registration board.

For those looking for a remarkable backcountry fishing experience, the **High Uintas Wilderness** is the place to find it. Popular areas include Granddaddy Basin, Brown Duck Basin, Garfield Basin, and Swift Creek Drainage. These are excellent destinations for mid to late summer trout fishing.

Along the south face of the Uintas, several fishing sites can be accessed by road. Popular locations include the **North Fork Duchesne River, Rock Creek, Lower Stillwater Ponds, Moon Lake, Yellowstone River, Uinta River, Pole Creek Lake, and the Rock Lakes**. Anglers can expect to catch several species of trout in these waters including brown trout, brook trout, rainbow trout, and Colorado River cutthroat trout. Moon Lake also contains splake, tiger trout, and kokanee salmon.

For more fishing information

Utah or Wyoming State fishing license required. A reciprocal stamp is available if fishing in both states. Visit the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (<http://wildlife.utah.gov/fishing/>) or the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (<https://wgfd.wyo.gov/fishing-and-boating>).

Flaming Gorge Reservoir



Green River, Section A



Are you looking for a fishing guide to help you make the most of your adventure? Check our website for a listing of guides that are permitted to operate on the Ashley NF: www.fs.fed.us/r4/ashley.

Hacking Lake



(Fish artwork © Joe Tomelleri)



Moose Ponds

Boating

Boating on Flaming Gorge Reservoir could be the highlight of your visit. The Utah portion is set in spectacular mountain scenery, with dramatic cliffs and narrow canyons. The Wyoming section spreads out into wide, high desert plains. Summer water temperatures are cool, providing excellent fishing and water sports.

Boaters should note: reefs and rocks are not marked. Due to fluctuating lake levels, boaters must use lake maps and familiarize themselves with locations of hazards. Winds can arise suddenly.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT IS REQUIRED BY STATE LAW
Familiarize yourself with Utah and Wyoming state boating regulations at:
<http://stateparks.utah.gov/stateparks/boating>
<https://wgfd.wyo.gov/fishing-and-boating>

Marinas

There are three marinas located around Flaming Gorge NRA that offer mooring, storage, fuel, minor repairs, limited rentals, and general supplies. All are able to accommodate large boats.

Buckboard Marina: 25 miles south of Green River, WY off Highway 530; (307) 875-6927

Lucerne Marina: 7 miles east of Manila, UT, 42 miles south of Green River, WY, off Highway 530; (435) 784-3483 or (888) 820-9225

Cedar Springs Marina: 2 miles west of Flaming Gorge Dam; (435) 889-3795

Boat Ramps

In addition to the marinas listed, the Forest Service maintains the following paved ramps (FCS-fish cleaning station):

- * Cedar Springs - FCS
- * Antelope Flats - FCS
- * Anvil Draw
- * Holmes Crossing
- * Buckboard Crossing - FCS
- * Lucerne - FCS
- * Sheep Creek
- * Firehole Canyon - FCS
- * Mustang Ridge



David Britton, USFWS

Aquatic Nuisance Species

When zebra and/or quagga mussels invade our local waters they damage boats, destroy fish habitat, and clog public water pipes.

Once a boat has been in infested waters, it could carry invasive mussels. Zebra and quagga mussels attach to boats and aquatic plants carried by boats. These mussels also commonly attach to bait buckets and other aquatic equipment. You can help stop these aquatic hitchhikers by following these three steps:

1. Clean mud, plants, animals or other debris from your boat and equipment
2. Drain the ballast tanks, bilge, livewells, and motor
3. Dry (7 days summer; 18 days spring/fall; and 30 days winter) or freeze (3 days)

If you cannot perform these steps, you should have your boat professionally cleaned (available free of charge from Utah Division of Wildlife Resources).



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

For more information, visit www.protectyourwaters.net.

Watchable Wildlife

Watching the bountiful wildlife on the Ashley National Forest is a favorite activity. The slopes and peaks of the Uintas are home to elk, deer, moose, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, and black bear. A resident herd of bighorn sheep are easily viewed year-round close to the Red Canyon Visitor Center and Sheep Creek.



The Henry's Fork Wetlands and the Red Canyon recreation area are popular birding sites. Osprey, turkey vultures, and golden eagles are commonly seen soaring along the canyon walls. Or, you might spot a Merriam turkey on the floor of Red Canyon.

Every year, wintering bald eagles, hawks, and thousands of migrating songbirds, ducks, geese, sandhill cranes, and other waterbirds congregate along the wetlands of the Green and Duchesne Rivers. Waterfowl are plentiful at the Lower Stillwater ponds on the Duchesne/Roosevelt Ranger District.

The shores of Flaming Gorge Reservoir host a large nesting colony of ospreys. One of the higher concentrations is in the Dutch John Bay area where several nests can be seen. Blue, ruffed and sage grouse also make their homes on the slopes of the mountains; the best viewing is in the spring and summer months.

Three species of falcon—peregrine, prairie falcons, and American kestrel—nest along the cliffs and in the trees around the reservoir, along with golden eagles, turkey vultures, and red-tailed hawks. Bald eagles can also be found here, most often in the late fall when they feed on fish, ducks, rabbits, and prairie dogs.

Kokanee salmon run in Sheep Creek during September and October. Try a float trip down the Green River for more fish spotting, or even better, try snorkeling for a close-up look.

For wildlife information and events visit: www.wildlife.utah.gov or <https://wgfd.wyo.gov/wildlife-in-wyoming>



Activities

Trails

There are 1,023 miles of trail on the Ashley National Forest that offer a variety of opportunities, everything from motorized frontcountry trails to non-motorized Wilderness trails. A few highlights are shown below:

Day Hikes

Canyon Rim Trail, on the Flaming Gorge NRA, begins at the Red Canyon Overlook and follows the canyon rim for approximately 1.5 miles, then continues on to the trail's end at the Greendale Overlook. Spur trails provide access to lodges and campgrounds.

Canyon Rim Trail
Length: 4.5 miles
Trailhead elevation: 7,400'
Elevation change: Minimal

Little Hole Trail, on the Flaming Gorge NRA begins at the Flaming Gorge Dam spillway and ends at Little Hole Day Use Area. This trail follows the Green River corridor and is commonly used for fishing access. It holds the special designation of being a National Recreation Trail.

Little Hole National Recreation Trail
Length: 7.2 miles
Trailhead elevation: 5,600'
Elevation change: Minimal

Dry Fork Flume Trail can be accessed at the forest boundary about 5 miles northwest of the Dry Fork settlement. The trail provides access to the historic flume structures, then climbs to the Horseshoe Park area where it ties into the Sink Ridge Trail. There are three different access points along the trail.

Dry Fork Flume Trail
Length: 10 miles
Trailhead elevation: 7,040'
Elevation change: 2,350'

Rock Creek Trail provides access to the High Uintas Wilderness Area where it ties into the head of Rock Creek Trail. Follow the trail for about 3 miles while it skirts the west edge of Upper Stillwater Reservoir, then follows Rock Creek before entering the Wilderness. The elevation change between the trailhead and the Wilderness boundary is 100 feet.

Rock Creek Trail
Length: 14.4 miles
Trailhead elevation: 8,200'
Elevation change: 2,000'



Little Hole Trail



treadlightly!
LEAVING A GOOD IMPRESSION



Unpaved and primitive roads present special challenges even in good weather. Before you head out, think about another challenge—your responsibility to “Tread Lightly.” Here’s how:

- T** ravel only where motorized vehicles are permitted.
- R** espect the rights of others to enjoy their activities undisturbed.
- E** ducate yourself by obtaining travel information and regulations from public agencies, and ask owners’ permission to cross private property.
- A** void water, meadows, muddy roads, steep hillsides, wildlife, and livestock.
- D** rive responsibly to protect the environment and preserve opportunities to enjoy your vehicle on wild lands.

ATV and Motorcycle Trails

Many roads and trails in the forest are open to off-highway vehicles (OHV). However, visitors should get a forest travel map from any Ashley National Forest office before venturing out.

The national forest has developed two motorized trail systems specifically to provide OHV opportunities. They are well-suited for a one-day ride. Some portions are very challenging and rocky, requiring above-average riding skills.



Outlaw ATV Trail

Outlaw ATV Trail
Length: 38 miles
Elevation range: 8,000'-9,500'

The Outlaw ATV Trail on the Vernal Ranger District consists of graded roads, 4x4 roads, and ATV trails. There are several trailheads along the route, allowing riders access to sections appropriate to their skill level. An Outlaw ATV Trail brochure is available at Forest Service offices.

Yellowstone ATV Trail
Length: 44 miles in 2 loops
Elevation range: 8,000'-10,400'

The Yellowstone ATV Trail on the Duchesne Ranger District provides two separate loops that consist of graded roads, 4x4 roads, and ATV trails. The difficulty levels range along the trail and may not be posted. More information is available at the Duchesne District office.



Know Before You Go

Be Bear Aware!

If bears become accustomed to human food, they may become aggressive towards people or cause property damage. Eventually, these bears may have to be destroyed.

- » **Keep a clean campsite. Store food and garbage in closed vehicles and out of sight.**
- » **Never put food scraps in the campfire - it attracts bears and skunks.**
- » **Don't keep food (or anything that smells) in tents.**
- » **Store stoves in a secure place when not in use.**
- » **Some bears also target motor oil, insect repellent, toothpaste, liquor and other things that look like food. Keep these items stored properly.**

For more information, visit www.BeBearAware.org.



Dispersed Camping

Camping is free in the remote areas of the forest and is an extremely popular way of “getting away from it all” in the summer and fall months. Several of the popular camping areas have minimal facilities (such as fire rings and restrooms) to protect the natural resources. Other areas are just a pull-off from the road. Some road corridors are closed to motorized off-road camping due to concerns about resource damage. Camping is limited to 16 days within an area; your camper may not be stored in the national forest. Please refer to the Motor Vehicle Use Map for details on where to camp.

Wash Away from Water

Soap degrades water quality and harms fish and other aquatic life. Wash at least 200 feet from the water.

Use Established Fire Rings Wisely

- * Check at the local Ranger Station for current fire restrictions. Remember, they can change on a daily basis.
- * Use existing fire rings if possible.
- * To put out a campfire, slowly pour water onto the fire and stir with a shovel. Continue adding and stirring until all material is cool to touch.
- * Do not simply bury your fire. The coals can smolder and re-ignite.
- * **NEVER** leave a fire unattended, even if there are no flames present. Many wildfires have been caused by abandoned campfires.



Human Waste

Bacteria and viruses found in human feces are known to cause many different gastro-intestinal diseases. Please follow these simple steps when nature calls:

- * **Flaming Gorge NRA:** All human waste must be deposited in a self-contained unit such as a portable toilet.
- * **RVs, Campers, and Boats across the Forest:** It is illegal to dump waste water anywhere except at designated dump sites. Check with Forest Service offices or field personnel to see where these are provided.
- * **Backcountry Campers:** You may dispose of waste by digging a hole at least 200 steps from any water source and burying the waste. Used toilet paper must be packed out.



OHV Etiquette

- * Keep the RPMs and speed low and steady when you are near houses, campgrounds, people, or animals.
- * Stay on designated roads and trails.
- * Cross streams only at designated spots. Crossing elsewhere can stir up silt which is bad for fish.
- * Respect seasonal closures. It may be fawning time or nesting season and letting animals reproduce undisturbed means more creatures to enjoy later.
- * Always use a spark arrestor. It doesn't sacrifice power, and can save the forest from fires.
- * Wash your machine after each use to avoid spreading noxious weeds to other areas.





Ashley National Forest

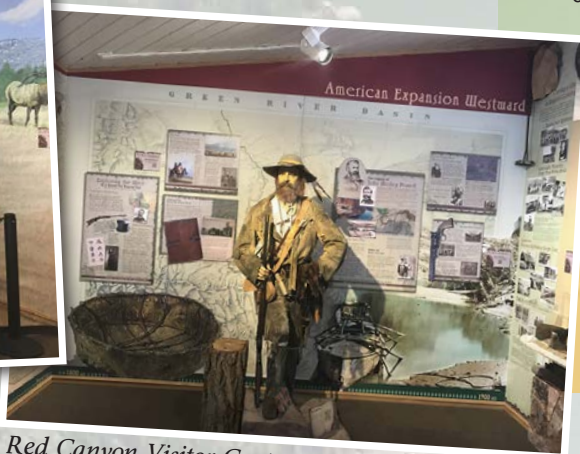
Your Fee Dollars At Work

Recreation fees have made a positive difference in our ability to serve our visitors because these dollars can be reinvested into services and infrastructure on the Ashley National Forest. Highlights of our recent accomplishments include:

- * **Cabin and Yurt Rentals** – Ongoing maintenance and major plumbing and building repairs were completed at Colton, Trout Creek, Paradise, and Summit Springs Guard Stations and at Limber Flag, Grizzly Ridge, and Carter Military Yurts
- * **Boat Launches** – In combination with grant funding, a new vault toilet was installed at the Spillway Ramp parking lot and Lucerne boat ramp. Maintenance is performed on fish cleaners, rest rooms, floating pump out stations, and docks.
- * **Water and Sewer Systems** – Major repairs have been completed at Buckboard, Cedar Springs, and Moon Lake campgrounds. Minor repairs and maintenance was performed on water systems across the forest. The water systems allow for flush toilets, dump stations, fish cleaning stations, and water at marinas, campgrounds, boat ramps, and lodges across the forest.
- * **Visitor Services** – Red Canyon Visitor Center was remodeled to include new exhibits and a fresh new look for the 50th anniversary of the visitor center. Seasonal rangers, campground hosts, and visitor use assistances are funded to increase visitor safety, protect resources, answer questions, and keep restrooms clean.
- * **Campgrounds and Day Use Sites**– New fire rings and picnic tables were installed at campgrounds throughout the forest, along with other maintenance tasks. The Moon Lake Campground was completely redesigned and reconstructed. The Dam Point picnic area was constructed with a combination of grant funding and fee dollars.
- * **Information Services** – The design and production of this Visitor Guide was funded by recreation fees.



Red Canyon Visitor Center new exhibit: canyon wildlife wall



Red Canyon Visitor Center new exhibit: explorer, mountain man wall



America The Beautiful - National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Interagency Pass Program

Many federal lands and activities can be enjoyed for free. However, for those who recreate on multiple federal lands that require a fee, the America the Beautiful Interagency Pass Program is the most convenient way to pay.

Note: The passes listed below are honored at all Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, and US Fish & Wildlife Service sites charging entrance or standard amenity fees. Entrance and standard amenity fees are not charged to persons 15 and under. Passes do not cover expanded amenity fees (such as guard stations and yurt rentals), and may not be accepted at sites operated by concessionaires.

Annual Pass—\$80.00

Not accepted for a camping discount.

Senior Pass—\$10.00 for lifetime

Available to U.S. citizens 62 years and older. In some areas, good for discounts on other fees such as camping. Must be purchased in person, with proof of age such as a driver's license.

Military Pass—Free

For active military personnel and their dependents. Must verify active military status. Valid for 12 months from the month of issue. **V**

Volunteer Pass—Free

Available through agency volunteer program coordinators. Issued to volunteers who individually accrue 250 volunteer hours.

4th Grade—Free

Available to U.S. 4th graders (including home-schooled and free-choice learners 10 years of age) who present a valid Every Kid in the Park paper pass.

Access Pass—Free for lifetime

Available to U.S. citizens that have been medically determined to have a permanent disability that severely limits one or more major life activities. In some areas, is good for discounts on other fees such as camping. Must be obtained in person with written proof of disability. Passes are available at most Forest Service offices and, **when purchased locally, allow 95% of the funds to stay within the Ashley National Forest.** For more information, visit: www.fs.fed.us/passespermits/rec-fee.shtml

Volunteering

The Forest Service Volunteer Program on the Ashley is very active. The jobs are exciting and diverse, scenery is exceptional and co-workers are friendly. For more information, contact any Forest Service Office, or visit www.volunteer.gov.

Ashley National Forest Supervisor's Office

355 North Vernal Avenue
Vernal, Utah 84078
435-789-1181

Duchesne/Roosevelt Ranger District – Duchesne Office

85 West Main
P.O. Box 981
Duchesne, UT 84021
435-738-2482

Flaming Gorge Ranger District Red Canyon Visitor Center

1475 Red Canyon Road
Dutch John, UT 84023
435-889-3713

Contact Information

Visit us on the web at:
www.fs.fed.us/r4/ashley

Flaming Gorge Ranger District

25 West Highway 43
P.O. Box 279
Manila, UT 84046
435-784-3445

Vernal Ranger District

355 North Vernal Avenue
Vernal, UT 84078
435-789-1181

Bureau of Land Management

435-781-4400 (Utah)
307-352-0256 (Wyoming)
www.blm.gov

Bureau of Reclamation

435-885-3106
www.usbr.gov/uc/rm/crsp/fg

Utah State Parks

877-UT-PARKS
www.stateparks.utah.gov/

Dinosaur National Monument

435-781-7700
www.nps.gov/dino/

